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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A probe adaptable for detecting magnetic resonance signals emitted from a region of interest including a conducting medium in an object or imaging tissue in the region of interest with increased signal to noise ratio when compared to use of a surface coil comprising:
  - (a) at least first and second electrodes positionable [[on or]] within the object in proximity to the region of interest, distal ends of the electrodes being spaced apart and disconnected, the electrodes being functional with the conducting medium as a coil for detecting magnetic resonance signals from tissue in the region of interest for use in imaging the tissue with increased signal to noise ratio when compared to use of a surface coil, and
  - (b) feed wires coupling proximal ends of the electrodes to a signal detector.
2. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 1 wherein the first and second electrodes are spaced apart with matter within the region of interest therebetween.
3. (Previously presented) The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the conducting medium comprises tissue.
4. (Previously presented) The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the conducting medium comprises fluid.
5. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the number of electrodes exceeds two.
6. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 5 wherein the electrodes are carried by a catheter.
7. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 6 wherein electrodes are rings around the circumference of the catheter.
8. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 6 wherein the electrodes are extendable from and retractable within the catheter.

9. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the electrodes are carried by a catheter.
10. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 9 wherein the electrodes are rings around the circumference of the catheter.
11. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 9 wherein the electrodes are extendable from and retractable within the catheter.
12. (Original) The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the electrodes comprise needles.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of imaging a region of interest including a conducting medium in an object comprising the steps of:
  - (a) placing the object in a static magnetic field.
  - (b) applying RF excitation pulses to the region of interest, and
  - (c) detecting magnetic resonance signals from the region of interest with an array of at least two spaced electrodes in proximity to the region of interest, distal ends of the electrodes being spaced apart and disconnected, the electrodes being functional with the conducting medium as a coil for detecting magnetic resonance signals from tissue in the region of interest for use in imaging the tissue with increased signal to noise ratio when compared to use of a surface coil.
14. (Cancelled).
15. (Previously presented) The method as defined by claim 13 wherein step (c) includes using electrodes that comprise needles.
16. (Previously presented) The method as defined by claim 13 wherein step (c) includes using the electrodes that are carried by a catheter.
17. (Previously presented) The method as defined by claim 16 wherein step (c) includes using electrodes that comprise rings around the circumference of the catheter.
18. (Previously presented) The method as defined by claim 16 wherein step (c) includes using electrodes that are extendable from and retractable within the catheter.